



FACT SHEET

YOUTH VIOLENCE

Bureau of Health
Division of Community Health
Maine Injury Prevention Program (MIPP)

1-800-698-3624

or

(207) 287-5356

Fax: (207) 287-3993

What Does the MIPP Offer?

- > Education, information, and resource materials on a variety of youth injury prevention topics.
- > Technical assistance to local programs and communities to address prevention to Maine's children and family injuries.
- > Grants to community agencies to prevent injuries, suicide and violence.
- > Training and education to increase the knowledge and skills of individuals and agencies working with children, families and caregivers to prevent injuries.
- > Surveillance of injury morbidity and mortality to monitor the incidence of injuries among Maine's children and families.

Revised 8/01

To learn more about Maine's youth violence prevention activities, call the Maine Injury Prevention Program at 287-5356 or 1-800-698-3624.

Is Youth Violence a Problem in Maine?

While Maine youths do not experience the same level of violence as their counterparts in more urban areas of the country, violence is an issue of concern among our adolescents. A combination of strategies must be used to effectively prevent youth violence.

- The rate of juvenile arrests for violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) increased from 1992 to 1996, but declined in 1999 to 158, similar to the 1992 rate. This decrease parallels a decrease in all crime in Maine in 1997.
- Data from the Maine Attorney General's Office reveals that many of the perpetrators of hate crimes are young men of school age.
- In the 1997 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 1,837 Maine high school students, 40% of male and 24% of female students reported being in a physical fight within the past 12 months. Maine youth report carrying weapons at a slightly higher rate than national average rates – 22% of students reported carrying a weapon and 7% reported carrying a gun at least once during the previous month.
- During the 98-99 School year, Maine Schools reported 650 personal and weapons related offenses that were serious enough to remove a child from school. These include assaults, fights, threats, harassment and possession of weapons, with a rate of 362 per 100,000 students.

Who is at Risk?

- According to data collected in 1998, teen mothers were four times more likely to report being physically hurt by their parents than older mothers; 28% of the adolescent mothers giving birth in 1998 reported that they were the victims of violence.
- In the 1997 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of 1,837 Maine high school students, 9% of male and 5% of female students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times during the past 12 months.
- According to a survey by the Commission on Ethical and Responsible Student Behavior, 18% of Maine students do not feel safe at school.
- In a survey conducted by the Maine Project Against Bullying, nearly 23% of third graders reported being threatened at school.